

Fr. H24  
SUBJECT: 5 Members of the Virsky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble in Boston, Mass.

SOURCE: G./H *nephew of A13*

DATE: Friday Jan. 13, 1967

1) A meeting with 5 members of the dance group was held on Friday, Jan. 13, 1967 at 11:30 PM in the Midtown Motor Inn, 220 Huntington Ave., Boston, Mass. The basic purpose of the meeting was to pass on gifts in the form of clothes and records to two of the members of the group, as one of the hosts had met them on a previous engagement in New York. The meeting with the dancers was held right after the evening performance of the Ensemble on Friday night. The following members of the group were present at the meeting:

A) Borys MISCHENKO - 32 year old artist of the USSR, soloist, will retire next year. In appearance he is of middle height, dark complexion and balding. He speaks freely and drinks moderately. The next day he purchased an automobile "Volga" for \$1500 from the representative of the Trade Mission of the USSR in Washington.

B) Maria (Masha) MISCHENKO - 31 year old wife of BM. She looks much older than her actual age. Her father served time in German captivity and was later pardoned. Her mother is illiterate and is taking care of Masha's 5 year old daughter during the trip.

C) Victor LYMAR - 31 years old, 6 feet high and well built. His mannerisms are simple. LYMAR claimed to take trips abroad quite often. He seems to already know that he will come to the US in May with a Russian dance group. His wife, Natakka, is with the Viryovka Ensemble which at the time is touring North Korea and will later visit Montreal. All the information points to the fact that LYMAR may be one of the guards in the dance group.

D) Tatiyana DERKACH - 20 years old and a good looking girl. She does little dancing and only appears in the mass numbers. Her assignment is to look after a small group of girls in the Ensemble. This is her first trip abroad and was obtained for her by her father who has a high government post, probably in the KGB. He lives in a apartment with a balcony overlooking the church of St. Sophia.

E) Lida SVINTSOVA - 19 years old, shy, quiet and bored girl.

2) The evening started with a snack and refreshments. At first the Subjects were reserved and little talking was done. MISCHENKO was very interested to learn of press reports with regards to the fire that destroyed the costumes of the Ensemble. Within an hour the MISCHENKO'S left having discreetly taken with them the gifts of one of the hosts. Soon after the girls left claiming to be tired. Only LYMAN remained indulging in the food and refreshments. He constantly tried to convince those present that conditions in the Ukraine had changed and that the government was willing to pardon anyone who was willing to return. Following are some of the topics that Lyman covered in discussion.

A) SHELEST - whose wife bore him a child recently, is an amiable individual. He constantly moves about in his uniform without any guards. He frequents sports events and football games and makes a point to converse with the people.

B) SCHEREBYTS'KYY - lost favor during the time of Khrushchev. It was rumored that during his reign a secret envelope was opened in Kirovograd ordering an alarm and an evacuation of the city. The envelope was to be opened only in case of war. Panic ensued in the city and SCHEREBYTS'KYY was blamed for this error. He was removed from office and only reinstituted after Khrushchev's downfall.

C) DRACH - on the whole is not liked that much. He only cares about his poetry. However, the people respect him for his sincerity. Yevtushenko is not liked in the Ukraine. Masha called him a hooligan.

D) Valentin Mikolayevich LIPATOV - is the tour manager. It was he who told LYMAN about his assignment to take part in the tour that will visit New York in May. He also informed MISCHENKO about the representatives from the Trade Mission with regards to the sale of the automobiles. The members of the group did not know how long the representatives were to remain in Boston.

In addition LYMAN spoke harshly against the people that demonstrated against the dancers in Detroit, claiming that one demonstrator admitted to him of having received \$5 for demonstrating. He also disclosed of having visited the house of a certain HONCHARENKO in Detroit who comes from Kiev.

3) The following day the members of the group were not able to keep their promise and meet the hosts. However, it was possible to give DERKACH 2 copies of Doctor Zhivago which she requested. Between the matinee and the evening performance Masha MISCHENKO was able to come to the host's car and say farewell. At that time she was given a doll as gift for her daughter. She promised to keep in touch by writing. On the whole it did not appear that the dancers were closely guarded. They were allowed to take on board the plane all gifts and purchased items.